



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

April 1, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- The American Red Cross (ARC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) met regarding implementation of the Citizen Corps initiative and FEMA's Office of National Preparedness' plans to train 400,000 individuals in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) initiative. ARC is working with FEMA to determine how existing training programs (first aid, CPR, damage assessment, basic water rescue, disaster health services, etc.) can be included in the CERT training initiative. FEMA announced further details of its plans for the program in a letter to all governors and requested a state point of contact for the program. The Illinois Office of Homeland Security will coordinate all issues in reference to Citizen Corps.
- The ARC is working with the Illinois Office of Homeland Security and the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to develop a strategy on applying for funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Funding and personnel hired under these programs must be for the purpose of strengthening community efforts in support of homeland security. The Corporation defines homeland security to include programs that support public safety, public health, and disaster preparedness and relief.
- The ARC continues to work on the development of internal and external communications systems associated with the new Homeland Security Alert System.
- Conservation Police patrol boats are back in the water, and shoreline patrols along Lake Michigan are more frequent. On Tuesday, March 26, the U. S. Coast Guard provided

an update on national/local terrorist threats and antiterrorist methods of law enforcement. Special attention was given to security arrangements for the Chicago lakefront this spring and summer.

- Scenario development and extent-of-play negotiations were initiated this week for the biennial evaluated Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercise at the Quad Cities Station in July 2002. Representatives from the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Exelon Nuclear, the state of Iowa, and FEMA Regions V and VII met to consider exercise objectives and an outline on the scope of participation.
- Preliminary findings by federal evaluators indicate that IDNS successfully met the objectives for the March 20 evaluated REP exercise with the LaSalle Station. In addition to the decision-making, communications, and implementation objectives required in all REP exercises, the LaSalle demonstration also included full field monitoring activities by IDNS staff.
- Training for police, fire, and medical service providers continues to be a priority for the IDNS Division of Local Government Support and Division of Planning and Preparedness. Basic Radiological Emergency Response classes were conducted recently in Freeport and Dolton. Additional sessions are being scheduled at the rate of at least one per week.
- The IDNS continues dialogue with federal officials over stockpiling of potassium iodide tablets. The Department is also assisting the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) in developing guidelines for state and local governments that are considering stockpiling the drug.
- As of March 26, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,693 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.